

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing pressure support to a subject, the apparatus comprising:

a gas flow generating system adapted to provide a flow of gas;
~~monitoring means for monitoring~~ a monitor configured to monitor
a characteristic associated with a intrinsic pressure of a
plurality of breathing cycle cycles of the subject;

~~controlling means for~~ a controller configured to

~~determining~~ determine an average intrinsic positive end-
expiratory pressure over a the monitored plurality of
breathing cycles based on an the characteristic output of the
~~monitoring means~~ monitor, and ~~for~~

~~controlling~~ control the gas flow generating system based
on the determined average intrinsic positive end-expiratory
pressure such that a pressure of the flow of gas delivered to

the subject during at least a portion of an expiratory phase of a breathing cycle substantially corresponds to the average intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ~~controlling means controls~~controller is configured to control the gas flow generating system such that the pressure of the flow of gas delivered to the subject during at least a portion of an inspiratory phase of a breathing cycle is at a pressure greater than the average intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the gas flow generating system includes a blower motor, and wherein the ~~controlling means controls~~controller is configured to control the pressure provided by that gas flow generating system by controlling an operating speed of the blower motor.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ~~monitoring means~~monitor is located proximate to an airway of the subject.

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:

a patient circuit having a first end operatively connected to the gas flow generating system and a second end; and

a patient interface operatively connected to the second end of the patient circuit, and wherein the ~~monitoring means~~monitor is operatively connected to the patient interface.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ~~monitoring means~~monitor is connected to the ~~controlling means~~controller by a wire.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ~~monitoring means~~monitor includes ~~means for transmitting~~a transmitter configured to transmit a wireless signal to the ~~controlling means~~controller, and wherein the ~~controlling means~~controller includes ~~receiving means for receiving~~a receiver configured to receive the wireless signal.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17,

wherein the ~~monitoring means~~monitor is a pressure transducer.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the apparatus is portable and is adapted for use by an ambulatory subject.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the gas flow generating system comprises an electrically powered blower motor.

27. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for providing pressure support to a subject, the apparatus comprising:

a gas flow generating system adapted to provide a flow of gas
monitoring means for monitoring a characteristic associated
with a breathing cycle of a subject;

controlling means for controlling the pressure of the flow of
gas provided by the gas flow generating system;

a patient circuit having a first end operatively connected to
the gas flow generating system and a second end;

a patient interface operatively connected to the second end of
the patient circuit; and

an exhaust valve operatively coupled to the patient interface so as to communicate an interior of the patient interface to ambient atmosphere through at least a portion of the patient interface, wherein the exhaust valve is operable under control of the controlling means to control a pressure of the flow of gas in the patient interface.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the valve is a pressure regulating valve.

29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the gas flow generating system includes a blower motor, and wherein the controlling means controls the pressure provided by that gas flow generating system by controlling an operating speed of the blower motor.

30. (Currently amended) A method for relieving dyspnoea in a subject, the method comprising ~~the steps~~acts of:

delivering a flow of gas to an airway of a subject at a pressure greater than ambient;

monitoring a characteristic associated with intrinsic pressure

of a plurality of breathing cycles of the subject;

determining an intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure of the subject over ~~a~~ the plurality of breathing cycles based on the monitored characteristic; and

controlling the pressure of the flow of gas delivered to the subject during an expiratory phase of a breathing cycle based on the determined average intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure such that the pressure of the flow of gas substantially corresponds to an average intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure.